MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT
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NEW U.S. ATTORNEY MARGARET CHIARA, FORMER SUPREME COURT OFFICIAL, PRAISED BY CHIEF JUSTICE

LANSING, MI, October 29, 2001 – New U.S Attorney Margaret M. Chiara is "a wonderful choice" who excels both as a prosecutor and as an administrator, said Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Maura D. Corrigan today.

Chiara, who today assumed the post of U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Michigan, was a staff member of the Office of the Chief Justice from 1999 through October 26, 2001. She served as Special Assistant to the Chief Justice. In that role, she helped oversee the successful transition of Michigan courts to the federally-mandated Child Support Enforcement System (CSES).

"Margaret will make a great U.S. Attorney, not only because she's a seasoned prosecutor, but because she's also an experienced and thoughtful administrator," Corrigan stated. "She was part of a team that helped shepherd courts through the CSES conversion. Everyone involved in that work knows what a difficult transition it was, and how much dedication Margaret brought to the task."

Chiara, who served two terms as Cass County prosecutor, is a former president of the Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan. She was associated with a private law firm in Cass County before becoming a prosecutor. In 1997, Chiara served as administrator of the Trial Court Assessment Commission, which was created by the State Legislature to study trial courts' caseloads and make recommendations regarding judicial resources.

Before becoming an attorney, Chiara was a teacher of grades 6 through 12, and also served as a educational administrator. She received her law degree from Rutgers law school and her undergraduate degree from Fordham University. Chiara also holds a masters degree in administration from Pace University.

Chiara was nominated for the U.S. Attorney's position by President George W. Bush on September 4, 2001. She was confirmed unanimously by the U.S. Senate on October 23.

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